College Academy of Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity

College of Arts & Sciences

The University of Alabama

Mission and Goals

The mission of the College Academy of Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity (CARSCA) is to provide support for College faculty to achieve excellence in these areas.

Funding by the Academy is open to all permanent tenured or tenure-track faculty and there will be no priority given to faculty on the basis of stage in their careers. Groups of faculty (including entire departments) may apply. Funding will be considered for: student salary, travel, equipment, supplies, honoraria for outside speakers, publication costs, etc. that will meet the goal of *enhanced* faculty productivity (no salary for the principal investigator will be considered). It is anticipated that funding from the College Academy will enable applicants to achieve an advanced level of excellence in the proposed activity; simply put, funding from the Academy is not intended to support what faculty active in research, scholarship, and creative activity would be doing in any event, but rather to enable faculty to enhance those activities.

Regardless of what is proposed for funding, all proposals **must include a method for measuring the success of the proposal.**

Proposal/Application Form

Applications for funding should be prepared and submitted as an electronic document (in the case of a group application, one individual should be designated Principal Investigator or Project Director), and include the following sections:

I. Title of the proposed project, along with name(s), academic rank(s), and affiliation(s) within the College of the applicant(s), and the signatures (not typed) of both the applicant (or a PI/PD signing for a group), and the chair(s) of the applicant's (or applicants') department(s), signifying that the work has been approved by him or her (or them). (page 1 of the proposal). Because applications are initially reviewed by CARSCA faculty within the three A&S Divisions (prior to full committee review), **indicate which A&S Division (Humanities and Fine Arts; Social Sciences; Mathematics and Natural Sciences) fits with your application**. (If submitting outside the division of the home department, the choice will need to be defended in the proposal.)

II. Abstract of the proposed work – This should not exceed 250 words and should be suitable for general publication or dissemination to the general public. This should be single-spaced in not less than 12-point type. (on p. 1)

III. Proposal – The proposed work should be described (double-spaced; not less than 12-point type with 1-inch margins; not to exceed 3 pages – no appendices). Keep in mind that the proposal will be evaluated by peers within the College who may not have detailed knowledge of the area; therefore, the proposed work should be described in sufficient detail for faculty colleagues to evaluate its impact, but still at a level general enough for the non-specialist to appreciate.

The proposal should address the following questions/areas:

a. What is the aim of the proposed work? Why is it important?

b. On what will the funds be expended?

c. How does funding requested from the Academy relate to existing and/or future funding for the work?

d. How will funding from the Academy specifically enhance the activity proposed?

e. What are the criteria for the success of the work? How will it be evaluated?

Points the committee will consider during review, if applicable for the project:

- Potential to enhance scholarship or creative activity
- Clear plan for the work
- Guided by a compelling question or creative idea
- Leads to new directions in the faculty person's research, scholarship or creative activity, and should in general be projects that have not already received funding from other University resources (such as RGC grants)
- Lead to outside funding
- Intelligibly written for non-specialist
- Innovative, daring, novel
- Interdisciplinary, if appropriate for the project
- Could not be done without this funding
- Have an impact on the College broadly
- Enhance reputation of the College of Arts and Sciences beyond the College

IV. Budget and Budget Justification, Ethical and Safety Concerns, and Previous CARSCA Funding – The committee will accept proposals with budgets of any amount, but **not to exceed $6,000**. In an effort to fund as many highly reviewed proposals as possible, the amount requested must be well justified (i.e., only request what is essential to complete the proposed work). Include a budget, budget justification, and brief timeline for the work (p. 5). Over the past several years CARSCA has provided funding support for approximately one-third of the proposals received (with full or partial support ranging from ~$1,000 to $6,000).

If the research requires oversight and/or approval for an ethical or safety concern (e.g., research with human subjects, research with vertebrate animals, use of radioisotopes, or use of recombinant DNA or other biohazard), then a discussion of how of the issues are to be addressed (e.g., protocol submitted to IRB or IACUC) must be included. (p. 5) No research can start until the appropriate approvals have been obtained. Copies of the approvals should be forwarded to the CARSCA chair.

If the applicant has been previously funded by CARSCA, a brief description of the results including the resulting number of submitted or funded proposals, publications, or creative activities should be included along with a statement of whether a final report has been submitted. Funding will not be provided multiple times for the same or similar project.

V. A reference list (1 page, p. 6) - All key references that help to provide a framework for the question being addressed should be included.

VI. Curriculum vitae (p. 7 and on) – Curriculum vitae for all persons participating in the project are limited to two (2) pages. The two-page vitae should include the following items: (i) name and departmental address; (ii) appointment at The University (rank and title); (iii) a maximum of ten (10) publications, of which five should be those most relevant to the current proposal, plus five other publications of interest; (iv) prior external funding, and, (v) synergistic activities, or other activities (such as conference presentations, conferences attended, courses taught, consulting activities, etc.) that may bear on the current proposal.

Application Dates and Period of Activity

Applications for the Fall 2022 semester **must be received by midnight, Tuesday, November 1, 2022**. *Late applications will not be accepted (12:01am on Nov. 2 is late)!* Applications should be submitted electronically as an email attachment to Greg Szulczewski (gjs@ua.edu) as a PDF file. Applicants will receive an email indicating that their proposal has been successfully received.

Funded applications may commence immediately or the start date may be delayed for up to one year. It is anticipated that the proposed work will be completed in a period not to exceed twelve months; however, in certain circumstances extensions of six months may be granted for the expenditure of the original award.

Final Report

At the end of the project, the successful applicant(s) must submit a written report (not to exceed two pages) using the template provided to describe the results of the project, with a detailed evaluation of the success of the project in terms of the metric for success proposed in the application.